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Items 40 and 53 of the preliminary list*

QUESTION OF PALESTINE

QUESTION OF CYPRUS

Letter dated 10 May 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a statement issued by the President of the Republic of Cyprus, His Excellency Mr. Glafcos Clerides, on the occasion of the signing of the Gaza-Jericho Agreement at Cairo on 4 May 1994 (see annex).

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 40 and 53 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) A. SHAMBOS
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Cyprus
to the United Nations

* A/49/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Statement by the President of Cyprus

The signing of the Agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization has already gone down in world history as a courageous and significant step towards peace, which will affect positively not only the Middle East, but also the entire world.

The protracted conflict in the Middle East, in addition to the loss of life and material damage, caused concern throughout the world and created serious dangers for world peace. Now this dangerous situation is receding and it is being replaced by hope and optimism, which brings relief and satisfaction to the entire world, but particularly to the Middle East region.

The start of the settlement of one of the most serious international problems in the world proves that when political leaders are inspired by a vision based on internationally accepted principles, then a sincere will is manifested and untiring efforts are made to find solutions safeguarding those principles in practice.

I welcome the signing of the accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization and wish it to be completed as soon as possible. Cyprus traditionally maintains excellent relations of friendship and cooperation with the Arab world and now is developing similar relations with Israel. For this reason we are particularly pleased because peace will prove to be beneficial for those directly involved in this long conflict.

Our island, which is facing its own serious problem, hopes that now the Cyprus issue will receive greater attention and solidarity from the international community in its efforts for the peaceful solution of its own problem. The vision of peace, based on the same internationally accepted principle, inspires and guides the Government of Cyprus in its sincere, firm and consistent struggle. We seek greater solidarity from the world community and particularly the permanent members of the Security Council to convince the Turkish side to show the similar willingness in this direction. If the Turkish side remains a prisoner of the past and does not share the same vision, the Cyprus issue will continue to remain a source of confrontation and danger that will poison the atmosphere of the entire region.

The Cyprus problem therefore stands out as the next step that the world community will have to take for the consolidation of peace in the area.